

SWARCer News

April 06, 2015



Public Service Through Amateur Radio

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

SWARC Auction

The SWARC annual auction was held at the last club meeting and I feel it was a great success. I did not see a single seller that seemed disappointed with the price they received from the sale. I also did not see a single buyer that appeared to be unhappy with what they had to pay for the item that they purchased. Overall I think everyone had a good time and left pleased. For those that are interested the following is a small list of some of the items that sold.

Icom IC-718

Yesu FT-8900

Astron 20 amp power supply

A whole year of QST magazines

Heath HD 1410 electronic keyer

MFJ CW filters

Collection of hats

Several antennas

An swr/power meter

Over all it was a great success. Everything that was brought in to sell sold. I hope that next year we have just as much fun and success.

AUCTIONEER

Steve

KA0GMY

SWARC General Meeting Minutes May 2015

Our president and club secretary got called out of town on a family emergency and no one else bothered to take minutes. It completely slipped my feeble mind so there isn't any minutes this time around.



Club News and World (LOCAL) Events

Hi everyone as the new editor of the club newsletter I want everyone to know what to expect. I am hoping to have the newsletter out the first weekend after the club meeting. So if you have information you want included then I will need it that weekend. If you take part in a special event the write it up and submit it along with some pictures. We will be happy to include your articles. If you would like to write about something going on in the club (good or bad) we will be happy to include your article. Please remember this is your newsletter and your contributions are appreciated. Please send your contributions to :

ka0gmy@bellsouth.net

June

This is election time. Be thinking about who can lead us into the future and uphold the standard set by KD4OKR.

Field Day

Field Day will be held on the 27th and the 28th of June. Operation will begin at noon on the 27th and continue through noon on the 28th. There will be a family cook out on the 27th and the drawing for the raffle will take place during the dinner hour. If interested in helping or operating please contact Dave, NW3U at

Dkrum@att.net

Treasury Report

Balance as of 05-04-2015:

The treasurer read the report but no report was submitted for publication.

Membership Report

Members as of 5-04-2015:

Membership Chair gave a report but no report submitted for publication.

Public Service

Please keep an eye out for upcoming reports of public service events happening in our area. In the mean time please check out the web page for these events.

WWW.SOUTHWAKEARC.COM

Net Reports

Nets held every night at 7:30 pm.

*Traders Net on the 1st and 3rd
Tuesday*

*Tech Net on the 2nd and 4th
Tuesday*



Club News and
World (local)
Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Mike Ramsey -
KD4OKR

Vice President

Kenn Kubacki -
KK4OSI

Secretary

Bryan Ramsey –
KK4TTU

Treasurer

Christy
Fernandini -
KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Federico
Llubares –
KK4HAQ

Member-At-Large

Marvin Friel –
KK4TTL

Member-At-Large

Bobby Chandler –
N4RDC

Membership

Chair

Glenn Crissman ,
N4AZR

APPOINTED

POSITIONS

Net Manager

Adrian Peele -
AJ4NX

Special Events

Director

Gino Fernandini -
KI4YXO

Public Service

Director

Charles Galloway -
W4DBI

NETS

The following
nets take place
on the
145.21Mhz
(82.5 Hz)K4ITL
"Blackjack"
Repeater.

Nightly 2m Rag Chew Net

Every night at
at 7:30pm

South Wake ARC Traders Net

The 1st and 3rd
Tuesday night
of each month
immediately
following the
Nightly 2m Rag
Chew Net.

South Wake ARC Tech Net

The 2nd and 4th
Tuesday night
immediately
following the Nightly
2m Rag Chew Net

Net Control Operators

Sunday
KENN, KK4OSI
Monday
Adrian, AJ4NX
Tuesday
Steve, KA0GMY
Wednesday
Jim, K9RII
Thursday
Kenny, KJ4CVK
Friday
Mark, NC4MP
Saturday
Julie, KT4JR

My Opinion is the one that counts Antenna thoughts by Dave NW3U

If you want to get a good discussion going just ask a group of HAMS what antenna should you get? You will probably get as many answers as there are hams in the group. I started with just an off center fed dipole and that did a great job, but there were still stations that I couldn't contact so I starting looking at directional (beam) antennas. I had a couple of prerequisites, 1) I did not want to put up a tower, 2) It had to be reasonably easy to put up and 3) I didn't want to pay a lot either. Then at last year's field day, Bill KK4QDZ brought out his new HEX beam. I helped him put it together and then a group of us helped mount it on the tower we had. It really impressed me and seemed to fill all my requirements. I did some research and read a lot of good things about HEX beams. If you are not familiar with HEX or Spider beams they are basically upside down umbrellas. They can be either single band or multi-band. Commercially they are available from 10 through 20 meters. I purchased the 5 band model from KIO Technology. So, I had the antenna picked out now how to get it up in the air. Since a HEX beam weights about 24 pounds mounting on a push up mast was a possibility. More research found several folks mounted the rotor on the ground and allowed the entire mast to rotate. The advantage to this is you do not have to deal with the weight of the rotor at the top of a mast. Also, if the rotor needs maintenance it is easier to get to. Rohn makes an H50 telescoping mast that extends to 44 ft. and includes guy rings that will allow the mast to rotate. I also decided to install a heavy duty thrust bearing (Yaesu GS065) at the top of the support pole to take the load of the mast off the rotor. The last piece was the rotor itself. I picked a Yaesu G-800DXA medium duty rotor.

Now that I had all the parts, it was time to put to all together. I used a treated 16 ft. 4 x 4 to support the mast. I buried it about 4 ft. in the ground and stabilized it with a couple bags of concrete. To support the rotor and the thrust bearing I constructed support brackets out of 1/2 aluminum angle iron (Figs 1 & 2).



To fasten the rotor and thrust bearing to the supports I went to a machine shop and had them make mounting pads out of aluminum plate using the drawings in the manuals for the rotor and bearing. To make sure the mast would be as vertical as possible I mounted the bearing in its plate put the mast through the bearing and clamped the bearing plate to the top bracket. Then clamped the mast in the rotor and using a level moved the rotor and its plate till the mast was dead on vertical and then clamped it down tight. Next I drilled the holes to fasten both plates to their mounting brackets (Fig 3).



You will notice in the pictures that I had to add some spacers to the thrust bearing mount. This was necessary because the distance between the outside edge of the bolt heads was about a 1/4 inch wider than the width of the space between the left and right bracket. Once the mast was in place and secure I put the antenna together and because it's so light I was able to put it on my shoulder and climb up a 12 ft. step ladder and drop it on top of the mast. The next problem was getting the mast elevated. To solve this I mounted a small platform on top of the 4x4 (Fig 4)



then clamped a high lift jack to the platform. Once the jack was in place I used a hose clamp to clamp the jack lifting arm to the mast (Fig 5).



I used a small block of wood to keep the clamp from sliding on the pole, later I found a thick piece of rubber to put between the mast and the jack arm and that worked much better, then just jacked the mast up. While elevating the mast I tied guy ropes to the mast as used them to stabilize the mast as it was raised into position. The antenna is guyed at three points and at three levels up the mast. The guys themselves are 6mm Mastrant MP06100 guy line ropes. In my case I was lucky enough to have trees close enough that I was able to use an 8 inch screw eye and screw it into a tree about 8 feet from the ground and tie the guy ropes to them (Fig 6).



I use Clamcleat Line-Lok CL271 tent cleats to provide adjustable tensioning of the guy ropes. The antenna is up about 35 feet (Fig 7). I very happy with the performance and would recommend this antenna.

For questions or other inquiries on this article please contact Dave, NW3U at Dkrum@att.net

Thank you Dave for the interesting article.